



A look ahead See which K-State teams have games coming up in the next few weeks.

Cramming Is the finals format the best for students? Edge editor Darrington Clark says 'no.'



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Prairie burning violates EPA air quality standards

Robby Hudson

contributing writer

Editor's Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

A K-State research project has found that pollutants in cities like Topeka and Kansas City might be linked to the burning of the Flint Hills prairies, located in eastern Kansas and northern Oklahoma.

Douglas Goodin, professor of geography, and Rhett Mohler, research associate and graduate student in geography, led a team of six members to uncover the impact of field burnings in 18 counties that are a part of the Flint

The project first started in the spring of 2008 with a budget of \$300,000, awarded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The purpose of the research is to study the impact of prairie burning in the Flint Hills on downwind air quality through the use of maps. Goodin said when the fields are burning, they create plumes of smoke that travel to urban areas like Kansas City, Topeka and Wichita.

The air quality in Manhattan has also violated federal standards in the past due to prairie fires, which produce smoke that contains harmful



The EPA is currently investigating the air quality in Manhattan following a large quantity of controlled burns.

chemicals including sulfur oxides, ozone and methane. essentially

problem," Goodin said. "The smoke becomes a part of the mix of pollutants and occasionally that can cause violations of federal air quality

BURNING | pg.6

Employee arrest connected to police sting Thursday

Caroline Sweeney editor-in-chief

Karl Kandt, assistant director of Career and Employment Services, was arrested last Thursday in connection with a prostitu-

tion ring in Manhattan. Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, director of K-State news and editorial services, confirmed that Kandt does work for the university but did not say whether or not he would be back on campus before the end of the semester.

Kandt was charged with patronizing prostitution and his bond was set at

Kerri Day Keller, director of Career and Employment Services, declined to speak to the Collegian. Her assistant Sharon Fritzson said Keller had no comment.

K-State freshman retention rates rise

More than 80 percent of first-year students return to K-State, thanks in part to programs offering solutions for financial troubles, homesickness

Claire Carlson

Editor's Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communica-

More and more freshmen are choosing to return to K-State after their first year, according to the university's latest retention data. Retention rates at K-State have risen since 2008, and university administrators continue to plan and support programs designed to keep students coming back.

The most recent data is available for 2010, when first-year students had a retention rate of 81.6 percent, compared to 2009's retention rate of 80.6 percent — a total increase of 1 percent in students returning for their sophomore

"Feeling a sense of belonging makes a big difference for student's overall college experience," said Emily Lehning, assistant vice president of student life and director of

new student services. Lehning said most students are leaving K-State due to personal reasons and suggested the economic recession also contributed to the drop in retention rates in 2007 and 2008.

Personal reasons, she said, could include financial and home troubles as well as not feeling included and involved on campus.

To remedy a combination of homesickness and financial troubles that some first-year students face, Lehning said K-State offers a range of different programs that are designed to help students succeed as students and also help them feel at home.

There are a variety of programs that K-State has implemented to help retention rates," Lehning said. "There isn't one thing that alone helps; it's all the programs working

signed to connect incoming stuto Laura Foote, K-State First assistant coordinator, the retention rate for the freshmen involved with the program this past year was 88 percent — 6.4 percent higher than the overall K-State retention rate

In 2008, 207 students participated, and in 2010, the program had grown to include more than 530 students.

"Research has shown that small and engaging classrooms make learning much easier and more successful for students," said Cody Howard, volunteer for K-State First and sophomore in journalism and mass communications. "The K-State First programs not only create those small and engaging programs, but also create chances for students to connect with other students to seek help with certain questions they may have about

"Feeling a sense of belonging makes a big difference for student's overall college experience."

Emily Lehning

assistant vice president of student life and director of new student services

subjects within the class."

The four-part program includes first-year seminar classes, the Guide to Personal Success program, the K-State Book Network and Connecting Across Topics communities, also called CAT communities. The different programs pair students up with other engaged students or professors on campus, while the K-State Book Network features the all-campus common read each summer, which gives students the opportunity to connect over a shared academic experience.

K-State Proud

Some students leave K-State due to financial issues that can be avoided with the help of K-State Proud. K-State Proud is a studentrun philanthropy on campus that provides current students financial support in the form of student opportunity awards. The goal of the

K-State First is a program de- campaign is to help students who have exhausted all other forms of dents with campus life. According financial aide and are at risk of leaving K-State.

Carolyn Gatewood, one of this year's campaign co-chairs and junior in elementary education, said K-State Proud raised more than \$110,000 during the campaign week this year.
"I've seen students who have

multilayer issues that boil down to money, so as soon as we secured a Proud award for them, they were off and running again," Lehning

In the current fiscal year, 62 K-State students have been granted student opportunity awards totaling \$82,499.25, for an average allotment of \$1,330.63.

"I love volunteering for K-State Proud because after being on the committee, I get to learn about all the people who get support from K-State Proud," said Kyle Reynolds, student opportunity awards committee chair and junior in mass communications and journalism. "I know that K-State Proud is making a difference on our campus."

MAPS program

The Multicultural Academic Program Success is a six-week summer program for multicultural or underrepresented freshman. MAPS began at K-State in the summer of 2009 and included 26 students, but grew to 45 students last summer.

MAPS students apply for the program in the spring of their high school senior year and then enroll in the College of Business Administration, Engineering or Agriculture at K-State.

"The students will take five to six credit hours during the six-week program," said Dawne Martin, assistant dean for diversity, in an email interview. "The primary course is either College Algebra or Chem 1, so not easy classes. So far, I think that our retention rate for all colleges is over 85 percent. In the College of Business it is 96.6 percent, with a 3.0 average GPA."

Although these programs help raise retention rates, Lehning acknowledged that K-State will never have a perfect retention rate.

'There are some issues that are just out of our hands and there just isn't anything we can do," Lehning said. "But we're doing our best to help students finish their educa-

Occupy MHK works to stay active

Members focus on community service, educating public on current events

Russell Haas contributing writer

Editor's Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

In October 2011, a local Manhattan group followed in the footsteps of the Occupy Wall Street movement and decided to localize the national protest.

The group, known as Occupy MHK, follows the same purpose posted on *oc-cupywallst.org*: the Occupy Wall Street movement "is fighting back against the corrosive power of major banks and multinational corporations over the democratic process, and the role of Wall Street in creating an economic collapse that has caused the greatest recession in generations."

Starting in October, Occupy MHK met in Triangle Park every Saturday to show support and raise awareness, but as the year went on, support started to decrease.

"The group held weekly protests for about two months," said Ellen Welti, an Occupy MHK organizer and graduate student in history and biology. "The first protest had over 200 people, but as the weather got colder, the attendance dwindled."

As attendance at the protests decreased, the group decided to pursue other courses of actions. According to Welti, the group now focuses on activities like holding food drives to help the needy, writing letters to editors of local newspapers and magazines to raise awareness and maintaining a Facebook page where group members discuss issues such as wealth distribution. The Facebook group members.

Debbi Plummer, Occupy MHK member and social service worker from Kickapoo, Kan., who first became a social activist in the 1960s, said she remains optimistic about the future.

"In the '60s, 10 percent of the population made the change," she said. "That is about what the support is at

The group is looking to revive protest activities in order to continue educating the public about current

> "Accuracy is different from the truth," Wirka said. "It would be possible to use all true statements and give the story a context that is

Vern Wirka instructor of

journalism and mass communications

"We are hoping to put on an event for Occupy May Day on May 1," Welti said. Plummer said she believes it is important for people to stay aware of current issues. She said one of the main focuses of the

Occupy MHK movement is to help people interpret the information that the media presents in order to make informed decisions both politically and financially. Plummer said it is important to keep informed by reading and question-ing what the media reports, saying that people should always cross-check their information.

"I need at least three references for authentication of information," she said.

Plummer said she believes that too often, people hear or read something false and instantly take it to be the truth. She also suggested that the accuracy of newspapers has fallen in the last

currently has more than 550 decade as the news media shifted their focus to entertainment to compete with news networks like Fox.

Vern Wirka, instructor of journalism and mass communications, said it is easy for people to get different messages from the media and agreed that everyone should learn how to extract facts from the information that media presents.

'There are different news philosophies in different news networks, so that the same story might be done differently by different media outlets," he said.

Wirka also talked about the importance of context in mass media. While accuracy is taught as one of most important aspects of reporting in journalism, inaccuracies can still come through the media, he said.

"Accuracy is different from the truth," Wirka said. "It would be possible to use all true statements and give the story a context that is

Like Plummer, Wirka also believes the general public does not do enough reading. Even when the people do read, he said, the average person tends to look for information that just confirms previous knowledge.

"Research has shown that many people go to websites and 24-hour newscasts that tend to reinforce their current beliefs," Wirka said.

Plummer said in order to improve the U.S. political and economic conditions, people need to vote, stay current on U.S. politics and believe in the power of the masses to effect positive change. She also said that the government needs to do away with privately funded elections because it allows large corporations to have too much impact over poli-

"If we keep Republicans in office who believe that the rich don't have to pay taxes, everything should be privatized and climate change doesn't exist, then things will continue to get worse," Plummer said.

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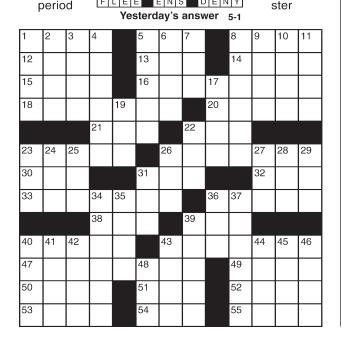
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CORRECTIONS

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If you see something that should be corrected or clarified, please call our managing editor Kelsey Castanon at 785-532-6556, or email her at news@kstatecollegian.com



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THE BLOTTER

ARREST REPORTS

Saul Andrew Miller, of the 2000 block of Hunting Avenue, was booked for driving under the influence. Bond was set at \$750.

Guy Earl Millspaugh, of the 700 block of Leavenworth Street, was booked for battery. Bond was set at \$500.

Compiled by Sarah Rajewski

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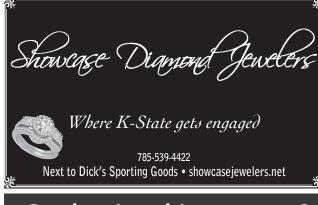
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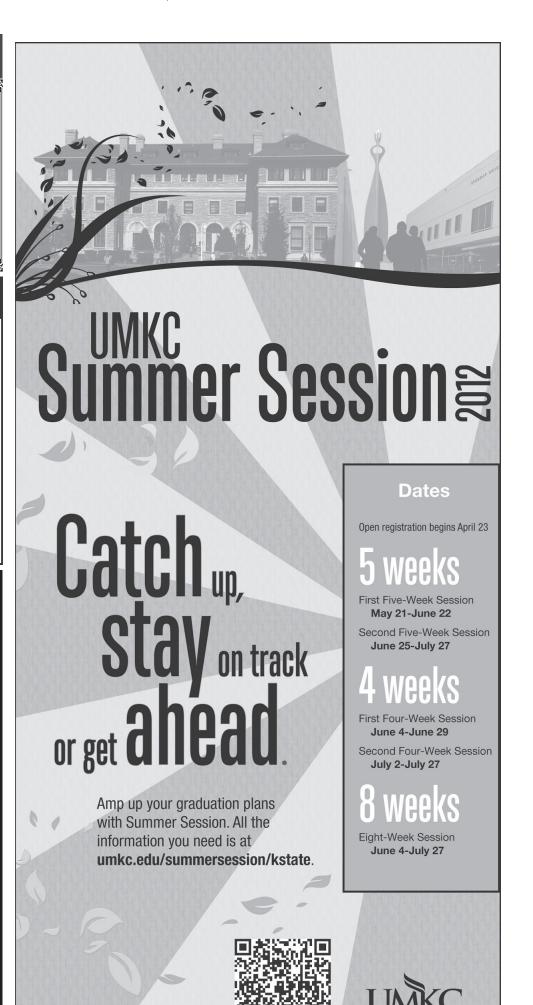
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Meals





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Rusty Shackleford @bigtimeks... 1d K-State Spring Football game... Almost like a KU regular season game. Same attendance and we leave at half-time. #thefourum

Trevor Barnes @TrevorX3 The number of people who wear Sperrys in StuMo is directly proportionate to the number of people in Challenge who wear Toms. #TheFourum

Chris Harrison @chris_harrison1 2d A shop owner in Lawrence just told me K-State is the better school. Aww yeah #thefourum #PurplePower

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BASEBALL

Wildcats set for rematch at Wichita State

staff writer

After being swept by Oklahoma State last weekend, the K-State baseball team (19-26) will try and halt its eightgame losing streak when they travel to Wichita to take on the Wichita State Shockers (27-20) tonight at 6:30 at Eck Stadium.

The Wildcats have not won a game since April 17 and 18, when they swept Northern Colorado in a two-game midweek series.

Before those two wins, the Wildcats had lost four straight and have gone 2-12 since losing to Missouri State on

In the last meeting between

the Wildcats and the Shockers on April 24, Wichita State took a 9-7 victory in a 15inning game at K-State's Tointon Family Stadium.

K-State will be looking to even out the series by handing Wichita State a loss at home and finishing the season strong as it winds to a close.

The Wildcats had held a 7-6 lead going into the eighth inning last week against Wichita State, but a solo home run by the Shockers' Ryan Hege with two outs in the eighth sent the game into extra innings, and a two-run double by Don Lambert in the top of the 15th inning gave the Shockers the lead and eventually the game, as K-State remained scoreless in

the bottom of the frame.

The Shocker offense is hitting a cumulative .278 this season, led by a trio of Johnny Coy, Dayne Parker and Lambert, who are hitting .318, .317 and .316, respectively. Coy leads the team with 50 RBIs, 21 more than the next highest, and has a team high .494 slugging percentage. Parker's 13 doubles lead the squad, and Lambert has a team-leading .411 on-base percentage and 15 steals as well on the year.

K-State's .277 team bat-ting average ranks fourth in the Big 12 Conference, led by sophomore center fielder Jared King's .353 mark, junior outfielder Tanner Witt's .323 batting average and senior first baseman Wade Hinkle's

Both King and Witt rank in the top-15 Big 12 hitters by batting average. Hinkle's team-leading eight home runs tie him for second in the conference and Witt's 19 stolen bases tie him for third in the Big 12 and second on the team, behind sophomore second baseman Ross Kivett's 21. Hinkle, Kivett and Witt all also rank in the Big 12's top 10 in walks drawn this season.

After tonight's game, K-State only has nine more regular season games, including six home games against the University of Nebraska-Omaha and the University of Kansas, followed by three games at Texas Tech to finish out their regular season schedule.



Ross Kivett, sophomore infielder, turns a doublepay against Wichita State University in the third in-ning during the game on April 24 at Tointon Family Stadium.

Caleb Fischer |

ROWING

Team lacked 'focus' in Championship

Sean Frye

The K-State rowing team continued their dominance over the University of Kansas this season, beating the Jayhawks in the 2nd and 1st Varsity 8 races on Saturday to come back and take third place out of four at the Big 12 championships in Oklahoma City. The Texas Longhorns took the Big 12 Conference title with a team total of 105 points, just 1 point better than the Oklahoma Sooners. The Wildcats and Jayhawks both finished with 64 points, with the tiebreaker going to K-State because of the victory in the 1st Varsity 8 boat.

"I'm really pleased with the top two boats doing well when we needed to," head coach Pat-rick Sweeney said. "The [2nd Varsity 8] was really close to OU, but I would have like have seen the one be closer to OU."

The 3rd Varsity 8, as well as the 2nd and 1st Varsity 4 boats, all finished in fourth place on the weekend, with the Sooners, Longhorns and Jayhawks taking those titles respectively.

"I don't think we were so much flat, but we didn't really focus in on each of the races Sweeney said. "It wasn't the same with us going into the races. It wasn't disappointing."

However, the top two boats in the program, the 2nd and 1st Varsity 8 boats, stepped up at crunch time and finished

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ahead of the Jayhawks to take third place on the weekend. The two boats finished with times of 7:10.98 and 7:09.35, respec-

The program was affected by the absence of junior Adria Ley, a junior rower who is usually a member of the 1st Varsity 8 boat. She was away at a funeral over the weekend.

"Her absence had a knock-off effect on all the boats," Sweeney said. "She was back (Monday) morning, but now she's got a bit of an infection probably from traveling. Hopefully we can get her back healthy as soon as possible." At the championships, the

Wildcats also placed three of their rowers on the All-Big 12 teams. Senior Hanna Wiltfong made first team, while Traci Smiley and Anna Young, both seniors, earned second-team honors.

"They were really well-deserving of getting that accolade," Sweeney said. "They are good leaders on the team."

Ultimately, Sweeney said he was pleased with his team's ability to out-duel the Jayhawks and take third in the conference, as he feels that his team simply does not have the same advantages of the Longhorns and Sooners.

"The two programs have so much depth, that we just get outgunned. We are just not in a position to recruit like that,"

Sweeney said. "They've got the deep pockets, and they bring in kids from all over the country and abroad. We are trying to get close to them and I think we can close the gap even further to them. In the varsity boats, they are working their tails off, but we can't catch their depth."

The Wildcats now have two weeks to prepare for the Conference USA Championship, which starts on May 12 and takes place in Oak Ridge, Tenn. However, he is first trying to get his team through finals week.

"As long as the girls take care of themselves and look after themselves, they should be fine," Sweeney said. "The cooperation of the professors will hopefully get everybody's exams done by Wednesday. Then we'll leave Friday. We really appreciate the professors that allow us to do that. We will try to get them on the water for just light paddles during that Monday, Tuesday,

Wednesday." Sweeney is also confident that the circumstances leading up to the C-USA regatta will be better than those going into the Big 12, and that his squad will perform well in Tennessee.

"I think if that we get a cl run into the race, and with finals week that is difficult, but I'm confident that we can have a good result at Conference USA," Sweeney said. "We've got to get everything right with everybody firing on all four cylinders."



K-STATE SPORTS CALENDAR FOR MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED NESDAY	THURSDAY	Y FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Baseball @ Wichita State -6:30 p.m. Wichita -Radio:KMAN-AM 1350	2	3	-Baseball vs. University of Nebraska -6:30 p.m. Omah @ Tointon Family Stadium	
6 -Baseball vs. University of Nebraska Omaha 1 p.m. @ Jointon Family Stadium	7	8	9	-Women's K golf @ NCAA S Regionals -U -location TBA N T	Baseball vs. cansas, 6:30 p.m. Dinton Family tadium Women's golf @ ICAA Regionals, BA Track & Field, ig 12 Outdoor hampionships, R.V. hristian Track	Baseball vs. Kansas, 6:30 p.m. at Tointon Family Stadium Women's golf NCAA Regionals, location TBA Rewing at Conference USA Championship, Oak Ridge, TennTrack and Field, Big 12 Outdoor Champion- ships, R.V. Christian

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Finals week not best way to assess knowledge, system is flawed



Students usually hate tests. We find them stressful, sometimes unfairly administered or graded and they are ultimately an ingredient in the recipe for a bad day. Kids are notorious for hating tests, and many adults find them detestable as well

I have heard a variety of arguments against exams, but, and this might come as a surprise, I personally don't hate tests. A student who doesn't mind taking tests? How

can that be?
Well, they're necessary. We have to assess what students know in order to find out if teaching a course is even worthwhile.

They create stress, of course, but getting tested on your knowledge is something that everyone must get used to in order to move on in life. The purpose of tests cannot be denied, but where we put them makes all the difference.

Putting a string of tests together, all in the same week, and unleashing it on an unsuspecting student population is not logically sound. The problem is not testing. The problem is finals week.

Why have institutions of learning used the absolute worst system of mass testing for so many years? Who even thought it was a good idea to cram all the information of a semester's worth of work into one week? I don't have answers to these questions, but there are a few things we could do to tweak the system to our favor.

The scores yielded from finals cannot truly reflect the effort that a student has given throughout their semester, but that is the grade that will stick with them and possibly affect the rest of their careers.

As a freshman, one thing I've noticed is that college gets out at the end of semester very early in comparison to high school. I'm not used to the extra weeks of freedom.

I don't think that the semester courses for college should be extended, but we could have one more week added to the end of the semester to make more room for having finals. Perhaps this would allow us to have a real "dead week," instead of a week that truly consists of more information to swallow. More time to study, meet with professors and even take breaks would increase student success.

That idea is a bit radical, but having the normal finals week is more of a problem causer, simply because of the sheer amount of information students must absorb so close to the end of the term.

Something else that I found to be odd with the entire system of finals week is the acceleration of new material so close to the end of semester. Toward the beginning of the year, students will have weeks to prepare for one assignment. Toward the end of the year, we often find ourselves with a test or two per week.

It just seems like poor spacing that could be easily adjusted so students could get used to a certain work rhythm and stick to it for the whole semester. As the amount of work increases and summer gets closer, student morale lowers.

When you get to the bottom of it, finals week simply isn't fair. There are some students who are absolutely sure that the next two weeks are going to kill the grade point average they've worked all semester to build. Others don't have a single final at all.

At least in high school, every student had to deal with the same amount of overbearing stress and finals work. In college, some people simply have more and different types of work than others. With that said, why are we all still tested in the same manner?

Finals themselves are good. They tell us how we've done, how we've grown, whether we need to stay in the field that we're in — all sorts of wonderful things. Multiple finals in the same period of time is just a disaster. It may be a staple of college to deal with the imposing impending doom of finals, but we should seriously look at the good-to-harm ratio, and consider changing the tradition.

Darrington Clark is a freshman in journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.



Illustration by Parker Wilhelm

Technology might decrease drivers' caution, alertness



Driving down a dirt road at night, eyelids feeling heavy, head nodding forward, you close your eyes for just a second and fall asleep at the wheel. According to the National Sleep Foundation's 2005 Sleep in America poll, 37 percent of adult drivers have actually fallen asleep at the wheel, with 13 percent admitting to doing so at least once a month.

According to a March 28 Detroit News article by Melissa Burden, the Cadillac SRX has a new feature that could wake drivers up if they fall asleep. For instance, as the car drifts to the left, the left side of the driver's seat vibrates to warn the driver to correct their course.

"It's quiet, it's private," said John Capp, Cadillac director of global active safety electronics and innovation, in the Detroit News article. The article boasts that the vibrations are silent enough not to alert the other passengers in the car that the driver was dozing off.

The motors in the seat vibrate on either side of the seat bottom to alert the driver if the car drifts to the left or the right out of its lanes; both sides vibrate if the car will run into something when driving forward or in reverse.

While the vibrations are advertised as strong enough to wake a sleeping driver, they're also supposed to be silent enough not to draw attention to the driver, raising the concern that the vibrations wouldn't actually be strong enough to rouse someone who is asleep.

If the car veers to the left or right, the seat will vibrate. This could be potentially distracting during driving, as it vibrates based on how straight the driving is and not because the driver is actually asleep.

This safety precaution also has

the potential to create a sense of security and comfort that would tell people it's OK to drive when you're sleepy because your car will wake you up.

ou up. Additionally, this safety feature



could also be used for driving under a much more dangerous impairment: intoxication. What better than a vibrating car seat that keeps you on a straight line to enable drivers to drive intoxicated?

One additional concern is if this vibrating seat does in fact wake up a sleeping driver, would the possibility for overcorrection cause accidents? Overcorrection more often affects inexperienced drivers, but experienced drivers could easily make that mistake when they wake up behind the wheel of their car. More than 4 percent of automobile fatalities a year occur because of overcorrecting, according to an article listing the most lethal driving mistakes on MSN Autos by Claire Martin.

Another device featured in an Oct. 25, 2010, Economic Times article boasts built-in sensors that sound an alarm the moment they

detect the driver's eyelids closing. According to the article, the device, called the Eyetracker, has built-in cameras that evaluate 200 images per second to calculate the driver's line of vision and left and right head movement.

While this device brings up concerns similar to the vibrating seat, the Eyetracker seems like a better idea. I'm aware that the Eyetracker's alarms probably aren't as discrete as the soft rumble of a vibrating seat, but maybe the designers should be less concerned with the driver's embarrassment and more concerned with the driver's wakefulness - and maybe the passengers would like to know the person sitting at the wheel is too drowsy to drive.

The Eyetracker would also be less likely to be used for ulterior motives, like driving drunk. It would also focus on whether or not the driver's eyes were open, instead of

the straight line of the car.

All in all, both ideas make me uncomfortable. Depending on your automobile to wake you up sounds chancy at best. While the idea might make you more comfortable, that might also be dangerous if it lowers your awareness and caution.

Coming from a person who has, in fact, fallen asleep at the wheel, and even driven off the road, it's almost surprising how easy it is to remain asleep. I was fully off the road before the vibrations from the dirt, rocks and trees I was driving over roused me. I learned my lesson, though, and I'd rather take a few trusty energy drinks on the road than rely on technology to wake me up.

Kelsey McClelland is a junior in journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

trusty energy drinks on the than rely on technology to me up.

McClelland is a junior in journal-id mass communications. Please

resources
Anyon-should ex options to affordable sive, there



Retention rates increase,

shows move in right direction

To the point is an editorial selected and debated by the editorial board and written after a majority opinion is formed. This is the Collegian's official opinon.

With the school year coming to an end, many students are looking forward to the sunny days and balmy breezes of the summer months, a time when many students take a couple of months to recuperate from the stresses of the school year.

Unfortunately for some students, however, it will be their last week at K-State, and not because of graduation

Increasing freshman retention rates is an issue that many universities face across the nation. Rising financial burdens from education and a range of personal issues can cause students to transfer or drop out, but giving up a higher education as well as the continuity of staying at a university for four or more years is a

steep price to pay in its own sense.

K-State has gone above and beyond to offer a variety of services and activities to help students get the most out of their college experience. In 2009, the university started initiatives such as the Guide to Personal Success and K-State First that help freshmen get acclimated to the college lifestyle.

The number of freshmen returning to K-State for their sophomore year has risen; the most recent data shows a 1 percent increase in freshman retention rates.

Although this is an encouraging sign, students should realize that there is only so much that the university can do. Regardless of the number of programs offered to students, it is up to each individual to take the initiative to take advantage of the resources that are provided.

Anyone struggling financially should explore scholarship and loan options to help make college more affordable. Although college is expensive, there are many outlets that can help make paying for it easier than it sounds.

Getting involved on campus is also another way to ensure that your college experience is fulfilling. Becoming a part of the K-State family is a unique experience; students should jump into the activities and organizations that appeal to them.

The editorial board would like to encourage students to continue to contribute to the K-State community and grow their involvement in the

K-State can only do so much to make your college days exciting and memorable; the rest is up to you.

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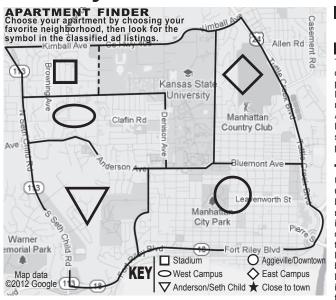
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HOWE LANDSCAPE INC is seeking laborers for several of our divisions for Summer 2012. These would be fulltime positions. Applicants must be 18 years of age, have a valid drivers license and pass a pre-employment LANDSCAPE HOWE

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three ways, person Monday- Friday, 8- 5 at 12780 Madison Rd. in Riley; call 785-776-1697 to obtain an application; or e-mail us at askhowe@howelandscape.com. You may also visit our website, www.howelandscape.-

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Bulletin Board

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lousing/Real Estate

1(0)5 Rent-Apt. Furnished

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edu/employment/Stu-

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Apply three ways, in person Monday- Friday. 8- 5 at 12780 Madison Rd in Riley; call 785-776-1697 to obtain an application; or email us //housing.k-state.at askhowe@howelanddentEmpApp_Web.pdf scape.com. You may and forward to Rob Sat- also visit our website, www.howelandscape.terlee at satterl@k-state.-

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Pick up a job description and application in Kedzie 103. Questions? Email jharmon@ksu.edu

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Hale hosts mock hearing

contributing writer

Editor's Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Hale Library played host to a Constitutional mock hearing as Leslie Scoby, history teacher at Sabetha High School located in Sabetha, Kan., and her students participated in the "We the People" program on Monday eve-

ning.
"We the People" is a civics program
"I for 25 years on that has been offered for 25 years on a nationwide level that encourages students to examine the ideas and philosophies presented in the Constitution and to form their own opinions on the issues. The civics curriculum is offered as an elective in high school but can also be found in grade schools or in junior highs as an alternate history

"Being a part of this program and being able to teach this class as an elective really revived my love for teaching," Scoby said. "It is a very student directed program that is so valuable for them and their future."

Scoby's group of 10 students participated in the mock hearing and discussed six main topic categories about the Constitution.

The competition requires several weeks of preparation. The students discuss each topic as a group, then split into pairs and, with the editing help of Scoby, write essays that answer questions about each topic.

When the papers are completed, the students choose one paper that they will present to judges at a debate in a four-minute speech. After the presentation, the judges have six minutes to ask any questions they may have about the paper or other related topics.

Unlike most teams, which may have 36 or more members, the Sabetha High School team is comprised of 10 students. After placing third at the state competition in Topeka, however, the team was confident that their lack of numbers would not affect their chances for success.

The final team from each state goes to the national competition in Washington, D.C. for the final debate. Unfortunately, government funding

for "We the People" was retracted for many schools in Kansas this year due to budget cuts, so now, each team must fundraise for the events they want to

Despite cuts in funding, the students said that they are fortunate to have the chance to participate in "We the People."

"This class will really help me in debating political science and just knowing the Constitution and what my rights are," said Luke Sunderland, senior at Sabetha High, who is planning to major in political science.

Scoby said she was first introduced to the program 10 years ago at a free teacher's workshop in New Mexico.

On Monday, Scoby announced that this will be her last year of teaching because she was following a goal to be a part of the state legislature.

These are the reasons that will really make me miss teaching," she said, in tears while pointing to her group of students.

Trevin Edelman, senior at Sabetha High who is planning to study journalism in college, said he gained several skills through the program that will help him succeed as a student.

This class helped me to learn how to do good research and how to dig deep to find the information that is needed," he said.

Meggie Hall, senior at Sabetha High who plans on majoring in public health, said she was pleased by the confidence she gained from taking this class and said it especially helped her develop her presentation skills.

"This class helped me to express what I believe," she said. "It will also help me with job interviews and face to face interactions. I am going into dietetics, and in some magazines, they have public health columns. This can help me if I need to write one. It also will help with me being able to interact with people and learning to hear people's point of view and figure out what is best for that person."

Hall recommended that students who take the class in the future "keep an open mind." Edelman agreed, saying that students might be surprised to find that the class is much more interactive than people may think.

The Constitution doesn't have to be dry," he said. "It can be interactive." Six of the 10 students plan on at-

BURNING 'Better decisions' necessary in future



Evert Nelson | Collegian

Each year the Flint Hills prairie undergoes a controlled burn between March and April. This controlled burn took place South of I-70 on March 9.

Continued from page 1

Mohler measured how much land burns and mapped where the burning is located. He used a moderate resolution imaging spectroradiometer to find the difference in burned and unburned land.

The project has also seen a decline in the population of three common grassland bird species and the greater prairie chicken throughout the Flint Hills, which is a direct result of the smoke, according to author John L. Zimmerman, who has studied different bird species and their migration patterns in Kansas.

Mohler said before the study, the amount of grassland being burned was only an educated guess based on surveying. But with satellite imagery and remote sensing, Mohler provided a more objective and precise reading of grasslands.

"That's the value of the maps; they inherently contain exactly where it has been burned, how much, the frequency and how often each area has been burned," Mohler

Other components of the project were mathemati-cal models that help predict where the smoke will go based on the time and place of the burnings. The models act as a decision-making tool for managers.

The reason behind the study goes back to 2003, when a large amount of field burning in a short amount of time resulted in air quality violations in Kansas City. This severe case of pollution drove the Environmental Protection Agency to investigate field burning and eventually led to this project.

The future of the project is

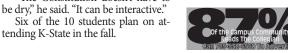
to link together two systems — one system that contains automated burn maps and the other system that contains how much fuel is available to burn. The two systems layered over each other create a model that will be used as a management tool, all without any human oversight.

Managers or stakeholders of the fields that are being burned can use these maps to better understand how the burning relates to the production of smoke and the potential effects of the pollutants that can cause serious injuries or even death.

"In order to try and best serve everyone's needs without really trying to lay heavy regulatory burdens on people, the best thing to do is to be able to have tools that can really, realistically say what the impacts are going to be," Goodin said.

Goodin wants the landowners to make better decisions that are based on sound science and well-understood relationships between burning and air pollution instead of just guessing how much they

"The ranchers and landowners have to burn," he said. "It's critical. But at the same time, it's also critical that people downwind have clean



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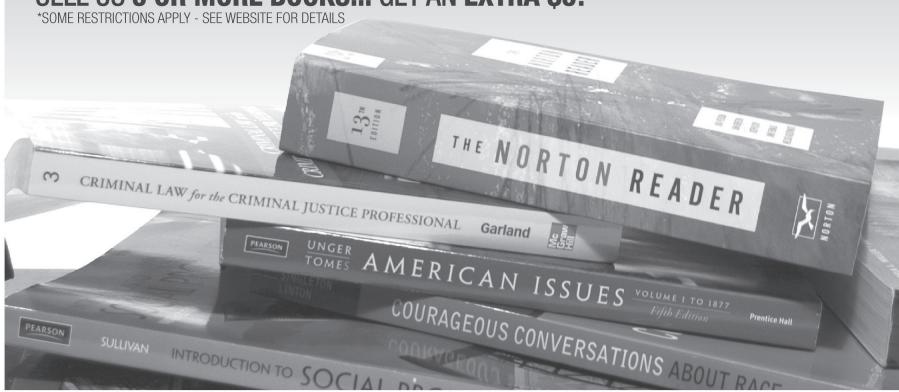








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